

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather

Quarterly Farm Labor

Cattle on Feed

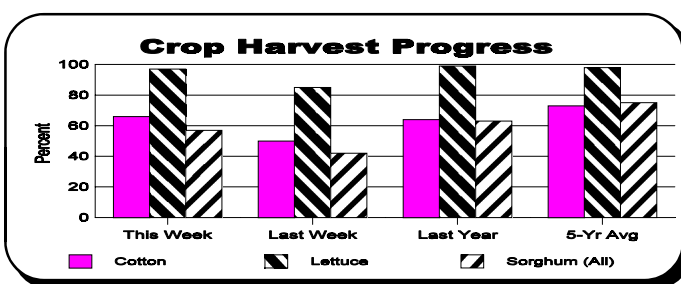
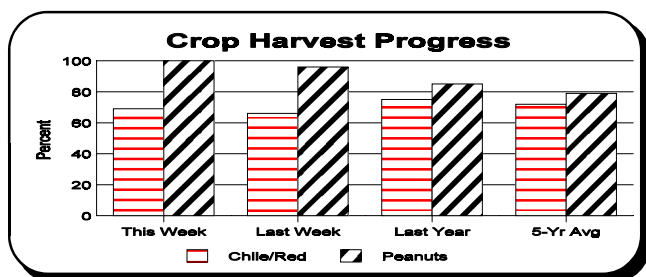
Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 23, 2003

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Farmers spent the week harvesting all crops remaining while pecan farmers prepared for harvest. While winter has fully set in this week the freeze damage to all crops was 20% light freeze damage, 20% moderate, and 14% severe. The 7th cutting of alfalfa was 91% complete and the cotton harvest was 66% complete. Total sorghum conditions were 30% very poor, 28% poor, 36% fair, and 6% good and the crop is fully matured with 57% harvested for grain. Winter wheat conditions were listed as 42% very poor, 17% poor, 25% fair, and 16% good. Peanuts were completely harvested this week and red chile reached 69% harvested. Lettuce was reported at 97% harvested, holding steady with the five year average. Onions were in mostly good to excellent condition and pecans were in mostly fair to excellent condition. Ranchers spent the week supplementing feed and finishing up shipping while many report to be at only 25% of stocking rate. Cattle conditions were listed as 16% very poor, 22% poor, 37% fair, 20% good, and 5% excellent. Sheep were listed as 23% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 16% good, and 2% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were 55% very poor, 29% poor, 14% fair, and 2% good.

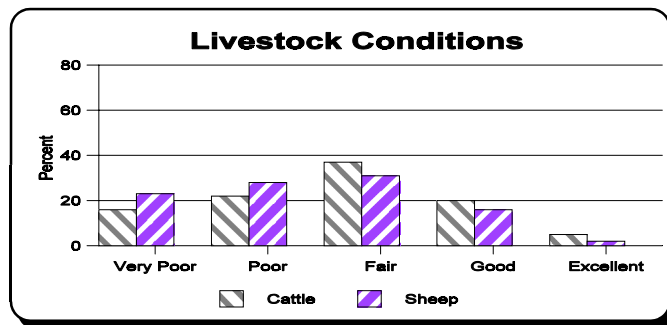
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Harvested-Red	69	66	75	72
COTTON	Harvested	66	50	64	73
LETTUCE	Harvested	97	85	99	98
PEANUTS	Harvested	100	96	85	79
SORGHUM (All)	Mature	100	96	100	100
SORGHUM (All)	Harvested	57	42	63	75



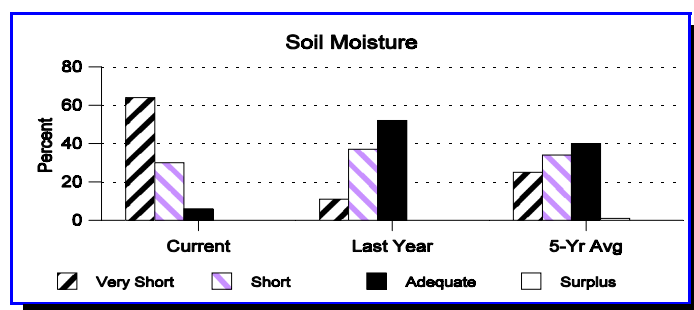
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Onions	--	1	1	52	46
Pecans	--	--	25	57	18
Sorghum (All)	30	28	36	6	--
Wheat (All)	42	17	25	16	--
Cattle	16	22	37	20	5
Sheep	23	28	31	16	2
Range/Pasture	55	29	14	2	--



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	15	23	62	--
Northeast	66	29	5	--
Southwest	50	50	--	--
Southeast	68	22	10	--
State	64	30	6	--
State-Last Year	11	37	52	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	25	34	40	1



WEATHER SUMMARY

While most of the week was warm, the coldest air of the season invaded New Mexico over the weekend. Temperatures fell into the single digits and even below zero over higher elevations of the north. Chama recorded -9 on the morning of the 23rd while Capulin was -2. Wind was strong over the entire state with the storm system over the weekend, with gusts topping 60 mph in quite a few areas. Precipitation for the week was spotty and light. Red River (.15") was the only location that measured over a tenth of an inch.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS NOVEMBER 17 - 23, 2003

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	11/17 11/23	11/01 11/23	Normal Nov	01/01 11/23	Normal Jan-Nov
Carlsbad	54.6	80	30	T	0.20	0.59	6.30	12.38
Tatum	50.5	76	25	0.00	0.81	0.55	7.27	15.57
Roswell	53.1	81	27	T	0.25	0.55	2.92	12.38
Clayton	44.0	76	12	0.00	0.54	0.52	11.63	14.80
Clovis	48.6	75	18	0.00	0.18	0.73	12.61	16.97
Roy	---	---	---	0.00	0.83	0.50	7.05	15.29
Tucumcari	48.5	77	17	0.00	0.79	0.51	12.79	13.90
Chama	27.0	57	-9	0.07	1.98	1.72	20.17	19.81
Johnson Ranch	33.1	62	7	0.05	0.23	0.69	9.86	10.85
Capulin	37.5	68	-2	T	0.00	0.67	11.29	16.94
Las Vegas	39.6	69	11	0.01	0.81	0.67	7.06	16.49
Los Alamos	36.4	57	7	T	0.76	1.02	9.60	17.64
Raton	37.6	70	4	0.00	0.59	0.61	9.73	16.22
Santa Fe	36.9	58	14	0.02	0.73	0.63	6.78	13.21
Red River	28.6	51	5	0.15	1.28	1.18	19.23	19.33
Farmington	37.8	60	13	0.06	1.11	0.94	6.09	8.12
Gallup	35.4	61	10	0.02	1.37	0.95	9.05	11.91
Grants	37.6	66	11	0.02	1.19	0.58	6.41	10.14
Silver City	45.9	66	25	0.00	1.79	0.70	6.32	14.72
Quemado	36.5	65	4	0.00	0.64	0.45	9.69	13.04
Albuquerque	43.1	64	21	0.01	0.49	0.43	6.24	8.38
Carrizozo	44.9	66	18	0.00	0.40	0.76	8.91	12.07
Gran Quivera	---	---	---	0.00	0.94	0.91	11.32	14.92
Moriarty	38.6	65	13	0.01	0.62	0.40	7.66	12.17
Ruidoso	43.3	62	21	0.01	1.02	0.88	13.19	19.72
Socorro	45.8	71	23	0.00	0.67	0.47	5.00	8.95
Alamogordo	52.4	75	30	0.00	0.83	0.71	5.88	11.92
Animas	51.1	73	30	0.00	0.79	0.71	3.35	10.62
Deming	48.8	73	27	0.00	0.93	0.64	6.48	9.73
T or C	48.7	73	27	0.00	0.78	0.60	4.96	9.22
Las Cruces	49.8	75	28	0.00	0.77	0.53	5.58	8.72

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR

NEW MEXICO: NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA: There were 18,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in New Mexico and Arizona during the week of October 12th-18th, 2003, down 5.3 percent from a year ago. Hours worked increased 4.8 percent to an average of 47.9 hours per worker. Average wage rates for all hired workers declined by 7 cents from last year to \$8.18 an hour. Field and livestock workers, however, saw increases in wage rates from last October, improving an average of 21 cents to \$7.63 an hour.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

**Workers on Farms, Hours worked Per Week, and Wage Rates for All Hired Workers,
Selected Regions and U.S., October 02-03 ^{1/}**

	Mountain II ^{2/}		Mountain III ^{3/}		Southern Plains ^{4/}		United States ^{5/}	
	Oct 7-13 2002	Oct 6-12 2003	Oct 7-13 2002	Oct 6-12 2003	Oct 7-13 2002	Oct 6-12 2003	Oct 7-13 2002	Oct 6-12 2003
Workers on Farms	-----Thousands-----							
All Hired Workers	16	20	19	18	58	54	940	891
Hours Worked	-----Hours Per Week-----							
All Hired Workers	35.7	41.5	45.7	47.9	41.7	41.7	40.4	40.2
Wages By Work Type	-----Dollars Per Hour-----							
Field	8.31	8.11	7.07	7.16	7.05	7.12	8.34	8.42
Livestock	8.79	8.12	8.24	8.73	7.32	7.70	8.42	8.64
Field & Livestock	8.50	8.11	7.42	7.63	7.18	7.39	8.36	8.47
All Workers	8.79	8.97	8.25	8.18	7.57	8.01	8.95	9.05

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Mountain Region II consists of CO, NV & UT. ^{3/} Mountain Region III consists of AZ & NM. ^{4/} Southern Plains region consists of OK & TX. ^{5/} Excludes AK.

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and Calves on feed for slaughter market in New Mexico for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 118,000 compared to 123,000 in October. Placements in feedlots were 19,000 head, an increase of 3,000 over October's total. Marketings of fed cattle during October increased by 10,000 from September to 20,000 head in October. Other disappearance totaled 4,000 head.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head on November 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.78 million, 16 percent above 2002 and 3 percent above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.86 million, 6 percent below 2002 and 2 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during October, 20 percent above 2002 and 49 percent above 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	11/1/02	10/1/03	11/1/03	10/02	9/03	10/03	10/02	9/03	10/03	10/02	9/03	10/03
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	290	275	278	28	25	26	25	23	22	1	1	1
CA	490	485	495	60	61	68	58	63	54	7	3	4
CO	1,060	950	1,050	250	255	270	210	200	160	10	5	10
ID	295	270	295	77	82	88	61	56	60	1	1	3
IA	335	310	350	95	80	113	73	69	72	2	1	1
KS	2,300	2,300	2,430	455	530	570	410	465	410	25	15	30
NE	2,110	1,830	2,140	520	520	640	360	345	320	10	5	10
NM	117	123	118	22	16	19	16	10	20	2	4	4
OK	340	350	350	75	81	78	63	73	74	2	3	4
SD	170	145	177	57	49	68	36	37	34	1	1	2
TX	2,730	2,720	2,840	600	620	680	570	580	530	20	20	30
WA	185	190	195	49	53	51	33	41	45	1	2	1
Oth Sts	320	265	320	101	102	110	64	70	54	2	2	1
US	10,742	10,213	11,038	2,389	2,474	2,781	1,979	2,032	1,855	84	63	101

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and hipments to other feedlots for further feeding.



Happy Thanksgiving

